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# Title 28

## EDUCATION

### Part IX. Regents

#### Chapter I. Rules for Registration and Licensure

##### §101. Definition of Terms

A. Terms used in these regulations such as *Board of Regents*, *Postsecondary*, *Academic Degree-granting Institution*, *Registration*, *Licensure*, and *Fees* shall be interpreted in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993).

##### §103. Registration and License Applications

A. All public and private postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions offering instruction in the state of Louisiana must register annually with the Board of Regents. Regular licenses are reviewed every two years. Requests for registration forms and license applications should be made in writing and addressed to:

Commissioner of Higher Education  
Louisiana Board of Regents  
150 Third Street, Suite 129  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801-1389

B. Completed registration forms and license applications should be returned to the address shown above.

C. License applications must be accompanied by a nonrefundable license application fee of \$750. The license application fee must be paid by company or institutional check or by money order, and should be made payable to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993), amended LR 21:168 (February 1995).

##### §105. License Fees

A. The license application fee shall be \$750. Those institutions granted a license to operate will be required to pay an additional \$750 at the start of the second year of the two-year licensing period. License renewal fees are required during each subsequent two-year licensing period and are nonrefundable.

B. If a request for license renewal is not received at the Board of Regents' offices at least 30 days prior to its expiration date, the institution can be subject to a delinquent fee of \$500 in addition to the renewal fee.

C. The Board of Regents may authorize assessment of special or supplemental fees to be paid by registered institutions pursuant to special actions or requests.

D. Institutions seeking licensure shall submit all required materials and the nonrefundable license fee to the Board of Regents. If a final determination concerning the institution's qualifications for licensure is not reached within 180 days of receipt of the license application, a provisional license will be issued to the institution. The provisional license will remain in effect pending a final licensing decision by the board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993), amended LR 21:168 (February 1995).

##### §107. Information Requirements for Registration<sup>1</sup>

A. All postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions are required to provide the following information on an annual basis:

1. name and in-state address of the institution;
2. location of its main campus or office;
3. a role, scope, and mission statement;
4. degrees offered in Louisiana;
5. courses offered in Louisiana;
6. the name of the institution's chief executive officer and chief financial officer;
7. names and addresses of the institution's governing board members, if applicable;
8. description of its physical facilities in Louisiana;
9. information relative to the institution's accreditation or official candidacy status from a regional or professional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;
10. other information as specified by the Board of Regents.

<sup>1</sup>Registration with the Board of Regents shall in no way constitute state approval or accreditation of any institution and shall not be used in any form of advertisement by any institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993).

## Chapter 3. Criteria and Requirements for Licensure

### §301. General Standards

A. General standards for public and private academic degree-granting institutions offering similar degrees and titles must be as close as possible.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:168 (February 1995).

### §302. Accreditation

A. Institutions must hold accreditation through an association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions domiciled outside the state of Louisiana must be fully accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education prior to making an application for licensure with the Board of Regents. Institutions domiciled in the state of Louisiana must either hold recognized accreditation or must make formal application and obtain accreditation from a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting association by date certain as a requirement for licensure.

B. Institutions seeking accreditation that have been found to meet other requirements set forth by the Board of Regents will be granted a conditional license until such time that they are accredited, or at a minimum, receive candidacy status from a recognized accrediting association. An institution that does not receive accreditation within a specified time frame will have its conditional license revoked.

C. The Board of Regents will consider a possible waiver of the accreditation requirement in the case of single purpose institutions. This consideration will be given in circumstances where the board determines that it would be educationally impractical for an institution to reorganize its programs and operations in order to become eligible for consideration by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting association.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 21:168 (February 1995).

### §303. Faculty

#### A. Qualifications of Faculty

1. Faculty shall be qualified by education and experience in the fields in which they teach. Faculty must meet the following minimum requirements.

a. Faculty shall possess no less than the degree awarded to a graduate of the program in which they are teaching.

b. The faculty shall be sufficient in number to establish and maintain the effectiveness of the educational program.

B. Institutions offering advanced degrees must employ faculty who hold advanced degrees in appropriate fields from institutions accredited by recognized agencies.<sup>1</sup> It is required that faculty credentials be verifiable.

1. If any institution employs a faculty member whose highest earned degree is from a non-regionally-accredited institution within the United States or an institution outside the United States, the institution must show evidence that the faculty member has appropriate academic preparation.

2. It is the responsibility of the institution to keep on file for all full-time and part-time faculty members documentation of academic preparation, such as official transcripts, and if appropriate for demonstrating competency, official documentation of professional and work experience, technical and performance competency, records of publications, and certifications and other qualifications.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Recognized accrediting agencies are those approved by the United States Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995).

### §305. Academic Program Standards

A. All curricula leading to academic credits, certification, and degrees shall be formulated and evaluated by qualified faculty with appropriate education and experience acceptable to public postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions in Louisiana and elsewhere in the nation.

B. Institutions shall provide prospective students and other interested persons with the following information:

1. admissions policies;
2. program descriptions and objectives;
3. schedule of tuition, fees, and other charges;
4. cancellation and refund policies;

5. other material information about the institution and its programs which may impact a student's enrollment decision.

C. Institutions must provide programs of sufficient quality and content to achieve stated learning objectives. Curricula offered by the institutions must be formulated and evaluated by faculty with appropriate earned degrees from institutions with U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditation. Institutions are also required to establish procedures for evaluating program effectiveness.

D. Institutions must indicate the means for determining satisfactory academic progress and provide data on student retention, graduation rates, job placement, and passing rates on licensure or certification exams, where appropriate.

E. Currently licensed institutions seeking to implement new academic degree programs must first advise the Board

of Regents of the proposed change. New programs will be reviewed as part of the regular license renewal process.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995).

### **§307. Physical Plant Standards**

#### **A. Library**

1. The institution shall maintain and/or provide student access to an appropriate library collection with adequate support staff, services, and equipment. Any contractual agreements with libraries not directly affiliated with the institution shall be available in writing to the Board of Regents.

#### **B. Facilities and Equipment**

1. The institution shall maintain or provide access to appropriate administrative, classroom, and laboratory space, and appropriate equipment and instructional materials to support quality education based on the type and level of program being offered. Facilities must comply with all health and safety laws and ordinances.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995).

### **§309. Financial Operations**

A. The business and financial management of the institution shall be directed by a qualified and bonded business officer responsible to the institution's chief executive officer.

B. Institutions are required to maintain adequate insurance to protect the operation of the institution and to guard against any personal or public liability.

C. All institutions shall provide the Board of Regents with a financial review prepared in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. However, any institution accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education may, at its discretion, submit financial statements prepared in accordance with rules and guidelines established by the accrediting agency.

D. Institutions shall maintain and update a long-range financial development plan for the institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993).

### **§311. Maintenance of Records**

A. Institutions are required to keep records for a minimum of three years which detail:

1. the composition and background of students, faculty, and administrative staff;

2. the institution's physical plant including land, buildings, library, and research facilities;

3. copies of brochures, catalogs, and advertising which describe student admissions, programs, and scholarships.

B. A student's records must be available for review by that student at the institution's central office.

C. Individual student records must include an enrollment agreement which at a minimum contain:

1. the name and address of the student;
2. commencement date of the program;
3. titles of courses within the student's chosen curriculum;
4. total hours (quarter, trimester, semester);
5. a payment schedule which includes the total cost to the student;
6. the refund policy of the institution;
7. a statement indicating that the individual signing the agreement has read and understands all aspects of the agreement;
8. student grievance procedures.

#### **D. Student records must also include:**

1. grades received;
2. all obligations incurred and all funds paid by the student to the institution;
3. student attendance information;
4. counseling records;
5. a transcript;
6. financial aid records.

E. Student records shall be available and readily accessible for use and review by authorized officials of the institution and authorized representatives of the Board of Regents.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995).

### **§313. Student Services<sup>1</sup>**

A. Institutions shall provide orientation and counseling services throughout enrollment. Special services including financial aid, employment placement for graduates, and student housing, if appropriate, must be evaluated periodically by the institution to determine effectiveness in meeting student needs and contribution to the educational purpose of the institution.

<sup>1</sup>The Board of Regents recommends that prospective students seek independent job/career counseling prior to enrollment in an

academic degree-granting postsecondary institution and encourages such institutions to promote this recommendation.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with 17:1808.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993).

### **§315. Organization and Administration**

A. An institution shall establish a governing structure which delineates responsibility for institutional operations, policy formation, and the selection of the institution's chief executive officer. If the institution is governed by a board or group of officers, the role and responsibilities of that body must be clearly defined.

B. Administrative personnel must possess qualifications which support the institution's stated purpose and effective operation.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995).

### **§317. Procedures for Tuition and Fee Refunds**

#### **A. Pricing and Refund Policy**

1. The institution must fully disclose all charges and fees in writing to prospective students. The parent or guardian of prospective students under legal adult age must be notified in writing of all charges and fees prior to enrollment.

2. Prospective students shall not be required to make a nonrefundable tuition payment until it has been determined that the prospective student has been accepted for enrollment.

3. The institution's refund policy must be disclosed in any contract to be signed by the prospective student or the student's legal adult guardian.

4. Institutions are required to follow the minimum standards for tuition refunds as set forth herein. These guidelines are:

a. students who withdraw prior to the first day of classes are entitled to a full refund of tuition and fees. Institutions may, however, require a nonrefundable application fee;

b. any administrative fees retained by the institution upon the early withdrawal of a student shall not exceed 15 percent of the total cost of tuition and fees paid by the student;

c. institutions which financially obligate students on a quarter, semester, or similar basis will be subject to the following tuition and fee refund policy:

i. students withdrawing during the first 10 days of classes shall receive a minimum refund of 75 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

ii. students withdrawing from day 11 through day 24 of classes shall receive a minimum refund of 50 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

iii. students withdrawing from day 25 through the end of the quarter, semester, or similar time period are ineligible to receive a refund;

d. institutions which financially obligate students for longer periods of time, i.e., periods exceeding six months, shall be subject to the following tuition and fee refund policy:

i. students completing up to 25 percent of the course of study shall receive a minimum refund of 50 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

ii. students completing more than 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the course of study shall receive a minimum refund of 25 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

iii. institutions are not allowed to keep the full amount of tuition and fee charges until at least half the program of study has been completed;

iv. refund policies for programs offering tuition/fee payments on an installment plan will be examined by the Board of Regents on an individual basis. Refund policies for installment programs are expected to conform generally to refund policies which appear in Subsection A.4.c.i through iii and d.i through iv of this Section;

e. refunds must be paid within 45 days of the date of withdrawal of the student from the institution.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995).

### **§319. Surety Bonding**

A. Institutions are required to post a surety bond issued by a surety authorized to do business in the state of Louisiana in the amount of \$10,000 to cover the period of the license. These bonds are intended to protect students in the event of a sudden closure of the institution. Institutions that are also licensed and bonded under provisions set forth by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) need not seek additional bonding.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993).

### **§321. Rules and Guidelines on Advertising<sup>1</sup>**

A. Registration with the Board of Regents shall in no way constitute state approval or accreditation of any institution and shall not be used in any form of advertising by any institution.

B. Licensed institutions may use the state name and licensing agency as follows:

1. (*Name of Institution*) is currently licensed by the Board of Regents of the State of Louisiana. Licenses are renewed by the State Board of Regents every two years. Licensed institutions have met minimal operational standards set forth by the state, but licensure does not constitute accreditation, guarantee the transferability of credit, nor signify that programs are certifiable by any professional agency or organization.

2. Any licensed institution wishing to use the state name and licensing agency in any promotion or advertising is restricted to the language which appears above. The statement must appear in its entirety and any modifications are not permissible under these rules or the law.

3. Advertising shall not include false or misleading statements with respect to the institution, its personnel, courses, or services, or the occupational opportunities of its graduates.

4. Institutions claiming accreditation by agencies not recognized by the United States Department of Education must clearly state in all advertising and promotional literature that the institutions' accreditation is not recognized by either the United States Department of Education or the State of Louisiana.

<sup>1</sup>Neither the institution nor its agents shall engage in false advertising or other misleading practices.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993).

### **§323. Hearings and Appeals**

A. Institutional hearings and appeals are handled in accordance with guidelines set forth in R.S. 17:1808, §1(E)(F).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993).

### **§325. Sale of Ownership and Transfer of License**

A. In the event that an institution sells all or a majority interest in its ownership, it is required to notify the Board of Regents of both expected and final sale. A review of the institution's operations and objectives will be required upon final sale to determine if the institution's operating license should be transferred to the new ownership. Any and all costs associated with the Board of Regents' review will be borne by the new ownership of the institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 21:170 (February 1995).

### **§327. Licensure Denial**

A. Any institution denied licensure by the Board of Regents that wishes to seek reconsideration by the board is required to wait a minimum of 24 months before resubmitting its license application.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 21:170 (February 1995).

## **Chapter 5. Consumer Protection**

### **§501. General Provisions**

A. Individuals must make reasonable effort to solve disputes directly with the institution. If a solution cannot be reached, an individual may file a written complaint with the Board of Regents. Board of Regents' staff will review the facts and intervene where appropriate. Such intervention shall not include legal action on behalf of the party, but may include additional investigation of the institution including a site visit to determine if the institution's license should be revoked.

#### **B. Disciplinary Provisions and Administrative Penalties**

1. The Board of Regents may institute disciplinary proceedings against a licensed agent who engages in false or misleading advertising. The Board of Regents may also require an institution to submit all advertising for approval prior to use.

2. It is illegal for institutions which come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents to advertise, recruit students for, and/or operate educational programs in the state of Louisiana unless properly registered and licensed.

3. Penalties may be assessed for the following violations:

- a. operating an institution without a license;
- b. deceptive or fraudulent advertising;
- c. offering an unapproved program;
- d. other violations as determined by the Board of Regents.

4. Violations may result in suspension of student enrollments where patterns of abuse and willful misconduct have been established.

#### **C. Meetings, Site Visits, and Reports**

1. The Board of Regents, at its discretion, may conduct preliminary conferences with institutional officers and board members to discuss standards and procedures for implementing licensure.

2. The Board of Regents may require a site visit and examiner's report at the cost of the institution. The cost shall

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not exceed the actual dollar amount incurred by the Board of Regents.

3. Site visits could include an inspection of facilities, books, school files and records, as well as interviews with administrators, faculty, and students.

4. Examiners would submit a report following the site visit with recommendations pertaining to the licensure of the institution.

### D. Enforcement

1. The attorney general is authorized to seek injunctive relief against an institution operating in noncompliance with the law. All costs incurred by the state of Louisiana in connection with such action shall be borne by the institution if it is found to be operating illegally.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993).



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